

18. (New) A teat according to claim 8, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

19. (New) A teat according to claim 9, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

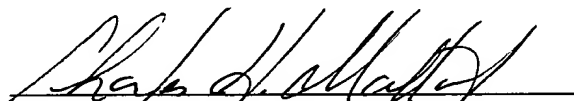
20. (New) A teat according to claim 11, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

REMARKS

The multiple claim dependencies of claims 3 and 5-10 have been removed by the amendment of claims 3 and 5-10 and the addition of claims 11-20. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by way of the claim amendments.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 28, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Dussere

Application No. Unassigned

Filed: September 28, 2001

For: AN ERGONOMIC TEAT

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

*(Deletions to the claims are indicated by cross-out text,
 while additions are indicated by underlined text)*

(Amended) 1. ~~1/~~ A teat for a baby or a child, the teat comprising a plate (~~40~~) on which the dental arches rest and defining a bite plane, said plate being terminated towards the front by a vestibular screen (~~40, 45~~) against which at least one of the dental arches comes into abutment in a desired position, said plate being secured to means (~~50, 60, 70~~) projecting forwards out from the mouth, the teat being characterized in that it includes a nipple (~~20~~) projecting from the rear of the plate, said nipple being in register with the back portion of the tongue when the teat is in operation in the mouth of the baby or child so as to co-operate with the tongue and the palate and stimulate movement analogous to that of suckling.

(Amended) 2. ~~2/~~ A teat according to claim 1, characterized in that the projecting nipple is connected to the rear of the plate by elastic means (~~30~~), enabling the nipple to move away from the vestibular screen while then applying a return force to the nipple urging it towards the vestibular screen.

(Amended) 3. ~~3/~~ A teat according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, characterized in that the vestibular screen comprises:

- a top portion (~~40~~) situated above the bite plane; and
- a bottom portion (~~45~~) situated below the bite plane and offset rearwards relative to the top portion.

(Amended) 4. 4/ A teat according to claim 3, characterized in that the offset (~~8~~) between the top and bottom portions of the vestibular screen is about 1 mm to 3 mm.

(Amended) 5. 5/ A teat according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, characterized in that a substantially vertical wall (80) is integrally formed with the rear edge of the plate and co-operates with the vestibular screen to define an aligner for receiving the dental arches.

(Amended) 6. 6/ A teat according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 5, characterized in that said plate (~~10~~) is generally U-shaped, with limbs extending rearwards to the rear ends of the dental arches.

(Amended) 7. 7/ A teat according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6, characterized in that the plate, the vestibular screen, and the nipple are integrally molded.

(Amended) 8. 8/ A teat according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 7, characterized in that the surface of the plate includes abrasive means.

(Amended) 9. 9/ A teat according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise a shield (~~50~~) for pressing against the front faces of the lips or a handle ring (~~60~~).

(Amended) 10. 10/ A teat according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 9~~, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element (~~100, 110~~) for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel (~~90~~) passing longitudinally therethrough to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

11. (New) A teat according to claim 2, characterized in that the vestibular screen comprises:

- a top portion situated above the bite plane; and
- a bottom portion situated below the bite plane and offset rearwards relative to the top portion.

12. (New) A teat according to claim 2, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

13. (New) A teat according to claim 3, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

14. (New) A teat according to claim 4, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

15. (New) A teat according to claim 5, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

16. (New) A teat according to claim 6, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

17. (New) A teat according to claim 7, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

18. (New) A teat according to claim 8, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

19. (New) A teat according to claim 9, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

20. (New) A teat according to claim 11, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

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FOOTNOTES